

Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PM-03

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 ACDA-05 SAM-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PRS-01 /065 W

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O 171105Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 2295

INFO SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

CNO WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK IMMEDIATE

COMIDEASTFOR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MANAMA 0827

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS : MARR, BA

SUBJECT : MIDEASTFOR STATUS

REF : MANAMA 0808 (NOTAL)

1. JULY 19-21 I EXPECT ALL KEY GOB CHARACTERS IN MIDDLE EAST
FORCE QUESTION, INCLUDING PRIMIN, TO BE IN TOWN FOR THE FIRST
TIME IN A LONG WHILE AND POSSIBLY THE LAST TIME BEFORE THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OPENS IN OCTOBER. GOB SEEMS READY TO MOVE
IN RESOLVING THE MIDDLE EAST FORCE PROBLEM. IT WOULD BE
PRUDENT FOR US TO MOVE NOWHALONG LINES SUGGESTED MANAMA 0808.

2. FURTHER DELAY IN RESPONDING TO GOB RE TWO YEAR LIMIT COULD
BRING NEW PROBLEMS GIVEN THE UNCERTAINTY OF THE MIDDLE EAST
SITUATION, REGIONAL PRESSURES ON GOB RE NAVY PRESENCE, AND
GOB'S GROWING CONCERN ABOUT THE PARLIAMENTARY PROBLEMS IT
FACES NEXT FALL. SINCE BAHRAINIS READ WHAT IS
HAPPENING IN SPAIN, THE PHILLIPINES AND ELSEWHERE ABOUT BASE
RIGHTS, WE SHOULD NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT IF WE
DON'T GET THIS THING WRAPPED UP QUICKLY, IT IS LIKELY TO COST
US CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN \$4 MILLION RENT PER YEAR. PRIMARILY,

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HOWEVER, A FAIRLY RAPID RESPONSE TO THE GOB'S SUGGESTION OF A

TWO YEAR LIMIT IS ESSENTIAL IF OUR CREDIBILITY ON THIS ISSUE IS TO BE MAINTAINED; AT SOME POINT AN "INTENSIVE REVIEW" BEGINS TO LOOK LIKE A "REASSESSMENT".

3. I REMAIN PERSUADED THAT APPROACH OUTLINED PARA FOUR REFTTEL IS THE PREFERABLE ONE. WHILE THERE IS OBVIOUSLY NOTHING MAGIC IN THE SPECIFIC LANGUAGE SUGGESTED, I FEEL CERTAIN IT IS AT BEST THE MINIMUM WE CAN GET BY WITH IN TERMS OF MEETING THE GOB'S FELT NEED FOR EXPLICIT RECOGNITION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF A TWO YEAR TIME LIMIT. I AM BY NO MEANS CERTAIN I CAN SELL THIS LANGUAGE (OR THIS APPROACH) TO THE FONMIN BUT AM CERTAIN THAT ANYTHING FUZZIER WILL BE A NON-STARTER.

4. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS BY JULY 19 IF POSSIBLE.

TWINAM

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NNN

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